Before the FEDERAL COMMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
Streamlining Deployment of Small)	
Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies)	WT Docket No. 16-421
Mobilitie, LLC Petition for Declaratory Ruling)	

Comments of the Virginia Department of Transportation, An Agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia

MARK R. HERRING Attorney General of Virginia

STEPHEN A. COBB Deputy Attorney General

JEFFREY R. ALLEN Senior Assistant Attorney General Chief Transportation Section CRAIG J. BLAKELEY STEVENSON S. KAMINER Alliance Law Group LLC 7700 Leesburg Pike, Suite 229 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22043-2623 Special Counsel (703) 848-8336 cblakeley@alliancelawgroup.com

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 202 North Ninth Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 786-3748 (Telephone) (804) 692-1647 (Facsimile) jrallen@oag.va.state.us

SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Transportation, an Agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, strongly opposes the Commission's adoption of Federal standards for wireless and small cell/DAS siting, right-of-way ("ROW") access and application processing. There has been no demonstration of a nation-wide problem that warrants a "one size fits all" solution as Mobilitie, LLC requests in its Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Instead, individual states should be permitted to develop their own statutory and regulatory approaches designed to address the individual needs and circumstances of the particular state, and to protect the safety of the users of the roadways adjacent to the ROWs, as the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Commonwealth") has done.

The Commonwealth's General Assembly has approved a wireless infrastructure siting bill, SB 1282, which is awaiting action by the Governor. If enacted, it will establish short deadlines to process applications for small cell facilities and will impose small charges for such applications.

The Commission should wait to gather experience from the Commonwealth and other states that are in the process of enacting wireless siting legislation before adopting national standards. Local conditions vary, and imposing a one-size-fits-all requirement before experience has been gained across a number of jurisdictions will be premature.

In addition, federally mandated access to state and locally-owned rights-of-way at less than fair market value would violate the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as 47 U.S.C. §253(c).

At this early point in the adoption of 5G technologies, it would be unwise to restrict the ability of the Commonwealth and other states and local governments to adjust their own statutory and regulatory requirements to meet future changed circumstances.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SU	MMARY i
I.	FACTUAL BACKGROUND2
	A. VDOT2
	B. VDOT's Authority Over Right-Of-Way3
	C. Telecommunications Infrastructure in VDOT Rights-of-Way6
	D. Pending Small Cell Applications7
	E. Virginia Legislation on Wireless Communications Infrastructure7
II.	ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
	BY THE FCC CONCERNING THE SITING OF SMALL CELL
	WIRELESS FACILITIES WOULD CONSTITUTE AN
	UNWARRANTED RESTRICTION ON THE AUTHORITY OF
	STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS9
Ш	. FEDERALLY MANDATED ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCALLY OWED RIGHTS-OF-WAY AT LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE WOULD VIOLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT AND 47 U.S.C. § 253
	A. The Fifth Amendment Requires the Payment of Fair Market Value
	B. Section 253 of the Communications Act Does Not Require Cost-Based Fees and is Subject to the Requirements of the Fifth Amendment
CO	ONCLUSION16
EX	XHIBIT 1 Virginia Utility Pole Collisions; Injuries & Fatalities
EX	XHIBIT 2 - Diagrams of Selected Utility Pole Collisions
EX	XHIBIT 3 - Virginia Legislation Concerning Wireless Infrastructure Siting (SB 1282)

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COMMENTS OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Virginia Department of Transportation ("VDOT"), an Agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hereby submits its Comments in response to the Public Notice issued by the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB") in the above-captioned proceeding.¹

For the reasons set forth below, VDOT strongly opposes the Commission's adoption of Federal standards for wireless and small cell/DAS siting, right-of-way ("ROW") access and application processing. There has been no demonstration of a nation-wide problem that warrants a "one size fits all" solution as Mobilitie, LLC requests in its Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Instead, individual states should be permitted to develop their own statutory and regulatory approaches designed to address the individual needs and circumstances of the particular state, and to protect the safety of the users of the roadways adjacent to the ROWs, as the

¹ Comments Sought on Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies; Mobilitie, LLC Petition for Declaratory Ruling, WT Docket No. 16-421 (released December 22, 2016) ("Public Notice"). In its Order released on January 12, 2017, the WTB granted an extension of time to March 8 and April 7, 2017 respectively, for the submission of comments and reply comments in this proceeding.

Commonwealth of Virginia has done. Moreover, there are constitutional and statutory bars to the imposition of cost-based limits on access and application fees.

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In response to the WTB's request for factual information, and in order to provide an appropriate context for these comments, VDOT provides the following information concerning its authority over ROWs in Virginia and the installation of small cell facilities in those ROWs.

A. VDOT

VDOT is responsible for building, maintaining and operating the roads, bridges and tunnels throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its mission is to plan, deliver, operate and maintain a highway and road transportation system that is safe, enables easy movement of people and goods, enhances the economy and improves the quality of life in Virginia. The agency maintains a 58,000-mile network of highways and bridges and, in doing so, places the highest priority on maximizing, to the greatest degree possible, the safety of all users of this transportation system. The VDOT network is divided into the following categories²:

- Interstate 1,119.57 miles of four-to-ten lane highways that connect states and major cities.
- **Primary** 8,064.06 miles of two-to-six lane roads that connect cities and towns with each other and with interstates.
- **Secondary** 49,166.52 miles of local connector or county roads. Arlington (359 miles) and Henrico (1,279 miles) counties maintain their own county roads with VDOT funds.
- Frontage 325.86 miles of frontage roads.

² The following information was published in 2015 and corrected as of October 2016.

The VDOT-maintained network comprises the third largest state-maintained highway system in the U.S., just behind North Carolina and Texas.

B. VDOT's Authority Over Right-of-Way

VDOT has authority over such ROW as is adjacent to the above roads and highways pursuant to authority granted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Section 33.2-210(A) of the Virginia Code³ provides as follows:

The Board shall have the power and duty to make regulations that are not in conflict with the laws of the Commonwealth *for the protection of* and covering traffic on *and for the use of* systems of state highways and shall have the authority to add to, amend, or repeal such regulations.

(Emphasis added.)

Pursuant to this statutory authority, VDOT issues land use permits for the use of the ROW, including for telecommunications facilities, in accordance with 24 Virginia Administrative Code ("VAC") $\S 30 - 151.4$

VDOT's authority to issue such permits for the use of its rights-of-way for cellular facilities is generally conditioned upon prior approval by the relevant local government, which must first approve the proposed use.⁵

VDOT has spent many millions of dollars acquiring ROW throughout the Commonwealth. Because a majority of these acquisitions were made using significant

³ See also § 33.2-226 Va. Code, (grants to Commissioner of Highways authority to lease, sell or convey airspace supreradjacent or subadjacent to highways in Virginia within his jurisdiction and in which the Commonwealth owns fee simple title.), 24 VAC 30-21-20 ("General Provisions Concerning Permits"), 24 VAC 30-21-30 ("General Provisions Concerning Use of Right of Way").

⁴ For a link to these regulations, as well to the relevant permit applications, see the VDOT web site at http://www.virginiadot.org/business/bu-landUsePermits.asp.

⁵ See § 15.2-2232 Va. Code.

amounts of federal funds, VDOT's use of those ROWs is subject not only to Virginia law but also to the requirements imposed by Federal law and regulations. Among those is the obligation imposed by 23 C.F.R. \$710.403(e) that, with respect to "all real property interests" that were obtained with funding under Title 23, U.S. Code, the use or disposal of such interests must be for "current fair market value." Section 710.403(e) (1) – (6) provides six exceptions to this requirement, including "when the grantee shows that an exception is in the overall public interest based on social, environmental, or economic benefits" (e)(1) or is proposed for use by "public utilities" (e)(2).

Any such proposal to charge less than fair market value must be submitted in writing to the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") and <u>may</u> be [but need not be] granted by it." 23 C.F.R § 710.403(e) (bracketed language added). It does not appear that, as a wireless infrastructure provider Mobilitie is itself a "public utility." Hence, it would seem that a request to the FHWA to provide facilities to Mobilitie in a federally-funded ROW at less than the fair market value would have to be made under the general public interest exception of Section 710.403(e).⁶

Significantly, in addition to the reservation of authority over the placement, construction, and modification of wireless facilities to states and local jurisdictions pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §332 (c)(7)(A), applicable Federal Rules also recognize the potential safety impact of utility use of ROW in a Federally funded highway project and specifically preserve the authority of state transportation departments like VDOT to regulate such use "in a manner which preserves the operational safety and the functional and aesthetic quality of the highway facility." 23 C.F.R. §645.205(c).

⁶ The cost-based charges proposed by Mobilitie for ROW access would undoubtedly be considerably less than fair market value.

Protecting the safety of drivers and passengers on its roadways is of primary importance to VDOT and is a critical factor in the placement of utility poles, including poles for wireless antennas.⁷ As an important part of its safety efforts, VDOT utilizes "clear zones." A clear zone is an "unobstructed, relatively flat area beyond the edge of the traveled way that allows a driver to stop safely or regain control of a vehicle that leaves the traveled way."

Several factors are considered in setting clear zones for a particular roadway. These include its: speed limit; roadway type (shoulder and ditch section (generally called "rural") versus curb and gutter section (generally called "urban")), and traffic count.⁹

Through the creation of clear zones, VDOT increases the chances that a driver whose car has left the roadway can safely recover control of the vehicle without a crash or, if a crash occurs, reduces the resulting harm. Although there are some circumstances when utility poles

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⁷ VDOT also considers the following factors in the placement of utility poles: location of poles that interfere with VDOT projects such as road widening; aesthetics (such as complaints from neighbors in residential subdivisions; and pole locations involving electronic equipment that might cause signal interference with VDOT equipment; and locations where poles may interfere with driver's ability to see other road users or critical traffic control devices (traffic signals or signs). Moreover, if aerial cables are to be attached to these cellular poles, the cables must be beyond the minimum distance proscribed by OSHA and National Fire Protection Association from existing or proposed VDOT signal poles and other structures, in order to maintain VDOT's ability to maintain those structures and to minimize risk of serious electrical injury by telecom company or VDOT employees/contractors. (VDOT often experiences considerable difficulty in placing traffic signal poles at intersections due to conflicts with existing aerial utilities.)

⁸ See FHWA web site at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/clearzone.cfm.

⁹ Applicable standards for the designation of "clear zones" can be found in the following publications: *Road Design Manual*, Appendix A, pp. A-25 through A-37 (VDOT, issued Jan. 2005, rev. Jan. 2017); *Roadside Design Guide*, Chapter 3, pp. 3 -1 through 3-30, with errata dated Feb. 2012 and July 2015 & Appendix A, pages A-25 thru A-37 (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials ("AASHTO") 2011); *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* "Green Book," Ch. 4, Sec. 4.6.1, page 4-15, Ch. 5, Sec. 5.2.4, page 5-8, Ch. 6, Sec. 6.2.4, page 6-8, Ch. 7, Section 7.2.4, page 7-6, Ch. 8, Sec. 8.2.10, page 8-5.

are located within clear zones, 10 VDOT generally prevents this from happening.

Notwithstanding VDOT's efforts, crashes involving utility poles continue to be a significant problem on Virginia roadways, as demonstrated in the chart below, which includes all vehicle-utility pole collisions on Virginia roadways for the indicated years (both VDOT and non-VDOT).

YEAR 🍱	Count of ALL UTILITY POLE DOCUMENT_NBR
2011	2,463
2012	2,548
2013	2,518
2014	2,498
2015	2,669
2016	2,628
Grand Total	15,324

More detailed charts, indicating fatalities and injuries resulting from utility pole collisions, are attached hereto as Exhibit 1. In addition, attached as Exhibit 2 are diagrams of several incidents involving vehicle collisions with utility poles.

C. Telecommunications Infrastructure in VDOT Rights-Of-Way

At the present time, there are 79 separate cell tower cites located in VDOT ROWs, of which 53 are owned by VDOT. Of those 79 cell sites, over 92% are located in three areas:

Northern Virginia near the District of Columbia; the Hampton Roads area; and the Richmond area. In addition, there are 12 power transmission line structure sites in VDOT ROW, 3,200

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¹⁰ On some prescriptive easement roadways, for example, which typically are rural secondary highways, the clear zone may extend beyond the ROW. Because VDOT's authority only extends to the limits of the ROW, a utility company may permissibly locate a pole within the clear zone (but beyond the ROW). Moreover, some of the poles are breakaway light poles, which may still be safety placed within clear zones. In addition, some roadways have a barrier-face curb and therefore do not have a clear zone as such. However, because curbs do not have a significant re-directional capability, any poles located within the clear zone behind a curb should be of breakaway design.

miles of fiber optical cable, and 6 tunnel sites. There are also 215 co-located facilities in VDOT ROW.

D. Pending Small Cell Applications

To date, Mobilitie has notified VDOT of the proposed locations of 500 small cell facilities. With respect to approximately 450 of those locations, Mobilitie has provided only the latitude and longitude of the proposed site; because of the complete absence of other required information, these are not considered to be applications. Of the remaining Mobilitie applications, they contain only minimum information and are not considered to be complete applications. In addition, VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office issued temporary permits to Mobilitie for 7 pole locations in Prince William County. However, Mobilitie and Prince William County have been unable to reach agreement on zoning issues so it is anticipated that those temporary permits soon will be revoked.

In addition to the submissions from Mobilitie, there are approximately 10 applications from another entity that are not yet complete and a total of fewer than 10 applications from two other entities that are temporarily on hold while VDOT finalizes its process for handling small cell applications.

One of those entities filed a lawsuit against VDOT with respect to its rates for cell towers within the VDOT ROW. The case was dismissed by the trial court and an appeal was denied on procedural grounds. This has been the only legal action file against VDOT involving the wireless telecommunications infrastructure in its ROW.

E. Virginia Legislation on Wireless Communications Infrastructure

In the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly, Senate Bill 1282, dealing with wireless communications infrastructure, was approved by both houses of the General Assembly

and is awaiting action by Governor McAuliffe.¹¹ VDOT expects that the bill will become law in substantially its current form. A copy of the bill, as passed by the General Assembly, is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

The legislation covers small cell facilities proposed to be co-located on existing structures and applies to both local governments and VDOT. Among other things, the legislation provides as follows:

- (1) It prohibits local governments from imposing a moratorium on considering zoning applications submitted by wireless carriers or infrastructure providers¹² and prohibits both local governments and VDOT from imposing a moratorium on considering requests for access to the public rights-of-way from such carriers or providers.¹³
- (2) It imposes time limits on both local governments and VDOT for processing small cell co-location applications. In the case of local governments, the time period is 60 days after receipt of the complete application with an ability to extend that period for an additional 30 days. The application will be deemed approved if not acted on within that original or extended period. The same requirement applies to applications to VDOT for single use permits. With respect to districtwide permits, VDOT is required to act within 30 days of its receipt of the complete application; otherwise the application is deemed granted. The same requirement application is deemed granted.
- (3) It imposes limitations on the processing fees that may be charged for small cell colocation applications by both local governments and VDOT. Local governments may charge up to \$100 each for up to five small cell facilities on a zoning permit application and \$50 for each additional small cell facility on such an application.¹⁷ They may also charge a fee of up to \$250 for an application to access a local right-ofway.¹⁸ VDOT is limited to a \$250 charge for processing an application for a districtwide or single use ROW permit.¹⁹

¹¹ Legislation that has been passed by the General Assembly may: become law (with or without the Governor's signature) or be amended or vetoed by the Governor and returned to the General Assembly.

¹² § 15.2-2316.5, p. 2, Ex. 3.

¹³ § 56-484.27(C), p. 4, Ex. 3.

¹⁴ § 15.2-2316.4(B)(1), p. 2, Ex. 3.

¹⁵ § 56-484.28(B), p. 4, Ex. 3.

¹⁶ § 56-484.28(A), p. 4, Ex. 3.

¹⁷ §15.2-2316.4(B)(2), p. 2, Ex. 3.

¹⁸ § 56-384.27(B), p. 5, Ex. 3.

¹⁹ § 56-484.28(C), p. 4, Ex. 3.

- (4) It prohibits VDOT from charging any fee for the use of the ROW for the co-location of a small cell facility by a wireless carrier or infrastructure provider. ²⁰ Local governments are subject to the same prohibition with respect to the use of a local ROW. ²¹ However, they may impose zoning, subdivision, site plan and comprehensive plan fees of general application. ²²
- (5) It prohibits local governments and VDOT from imposing any requirements for the use of public rights-of-way that are unfair, unreasonable, or discriminatory.²³

II. ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS BY THE FCC CONCERNING THE SITING OF SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNWARRANTED RESTRICTION ON THE AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

Among other things, Mobilitie requests that the Commission issue a declaratory ruling to limit state and local government application fees and usage fees for public rights-of-way to the actual and/or incremental costs of such applications and usage and to rule that charges that exceed these costs are unlawful.²⁴ In addition to the constitutional and statutory bars to such action, discussed further below, VDOT submits that such action by the Commission is ill-advised because it would effectively preempt the ability of states and local governments to flexibly respond to changed circumstances and revise their procedures accordingly.

The action requested by Mobilitie is significantly different than the actions taken by the Commission in its 2009 Declaratory Ruling. ²⁵ There, the Commission took two actions intended to facilitate the processing of applications for siting wireless telecommunications facilities. It adopted the 90/150-day "shot clock" for state and local processing of wireless siting

²⁰ § 56-484.28 (C), p. 4, Ex. 3.

²¹ § 56-484.29(B), p. 5, Ex. 3

²² Id.

²³ § 56.484.27(A), p. 4. Ex. 3.

²⁴ Petition for Declaratory Ruling of Mobilitie, LLC (Nov. 15, 2016).

²⁵ Petition For Declaratory Ruling To Clarify Provisions Of Section 332(C)(7)(B) To Ensure Timely Siting Review, Declaratory Ruling, 24 FCC Rcd. 13994 (2009), aff'd, City of Arlington v. FCC, 668 F.3d. 229 (5th Cir. 2012), aff'd, 133 S. Ct. 1863 (2013).

applications.²⁶ It also ruled that wireless sitting applications could not be denied solely because one or more carriers already served a given geographic market.²⁷ Now, however, the Commission is considering a significant expansion of its role into wireless telecommunications siting by specifying what is meant by "just and reasonable compensation" under 47 U.S.C. § 253(c) of the Communications Act.²⁸

The important role of the state and local governments in the U.S. federal system of government has long been recognized.²⁹ Indeed, in its Report on Siting Wireless Communications Facilities ("Report"), issued less than one year ago, in July 2016, the Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee stated as follows:

"As can be expected, priorities and needs vary greatly by locality. As such a 'one size fits all' approach would never work for processing land use development applications. A 'one size fits all approach' certainly is not the best way to ensure harmonious and efficient buildout of wireless communications facilities." 30

While the Report inexplicably goes unmentioned in the Commission's Pubic Notice,

VDOT submits that these same considerations militate in favor of leaving decisions concerning

wireless facility siting and application/usage fees to the states and local governments. This is

consistent with the statutory directive of Section 253 that "Nothing in this section affects the

authority of a State or local government to manage the public rights-of-way or to require fair and

"Nothing in this section affects the authority of a State or local government to manage the public rights-of-way or to require fair and reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers, on a competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory basis, for use of public rights-of-way on a nondiscriminatory basis, if the compensation required is publicly disclosed by such government."

²⁶ *Id*. at 14012

²⁷ *Id.* at 14016.

²⁸ Section 253(c) states:

²⁹ See Justice Brandeis's dissenting opinion in New State Ice Co. v. Liebman, 285 U.S. 262, 311 (1932) ("It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country.")

³⁰ *Report*, p. 4.

reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers," so long as it is done in a competitively neutral way and is publicly disclosed.

The evidence submitted thus far by Mobilitie in support of its Petition is primarily anecdotal and, as pointed out in the *Public Notice*, the rollout of 5G service is several years away. Thus, imposition of the "one size fits all" solution proposed by Mobilitie is, at best, premature. Indeed, VDOT believes that such a national "solution" imposed by the FCC, would be counterproductive.

Leaving such issues to the determination of state and local governments (subject to the requirements of Section 253) would not in any way denigrate the importance of these issues. To the contrary, as set forth in the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee's *Report*, it would recognize the importance of a flexible approach, which can be adjusted as appropriate to the particular circumstances of the various states and localities.

The Commonwealth of Virginia presents an example of just such an approach. As discussed above, the Virginia General Assembly recently adopted legislation, SB 1282, which addresses processing time and application/ROW usage fees for small cell co-location applications. This legislation represents a determination by the General Assembly as to the approach that is appropriate for Virginia. Once signed by the Governor, it will impose upon VDOT and Virginia local governments requirements that are consistent with those urged by Mobilitie with respect to small cell co-located facilities. Importantly, the Virginia legislation leaves undisturbed VDOT's ability to manage the location of wireless telecom facilities, which,

as discussed above, is critical to VDOT's ability to protect the safety of the users of Virginia's roadway system.³¹

Once it becomes law, and VDOT and localities within the Commonwealth, as well as wireless facility applicants, have had experience operating thereunder, this legislation may need to be adjusted by a future General Assembly. For example, at this point, it is not possible to predict the volume of applications that will be submitted and consequently whether the time periods for processing applications will be sufficient to process them.³²

However, if the Commission adopts the requirements proposed in its *Public Notice*, it may well have precluded such future changes by the General Assembly, as well as changes by other states and localities that have adopted similar requirements.

VDOT believes that the Commission should decline Mobilitie's request to impose additional national requirements on the procedures for siting wireless small cell facilities.

Rather, it should leave those requirements to the various state and local governments, which can adjust them to meet varying local conditions, subject to the requirements of Section 253 of the Communications Act. In those circumstances where outstanding issues between mobile companies and state/local governments cannot be amicably resolved, "the courts are the appropriate forum to resolve conflicts" as pointed in the July 2016 Report of the Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. Moreover, while we agree with other commenting

³¹ In any Declaratory Ruling issued by the Commission in this proceeding, VDOT requests that the Commission emphasize and reiterate the authority reserved to state and local governments by Section 253 to manage the public rights-of-way.

³² As noted above, VDOT has received notification from Mobilitie of its desire for a large number of proposed sites. How long it would take to process the same number of complete and valid applications is, at this point, a matter of pure speculation. VDOT might need to hire outside experts to help, and whether such experts are even available on short notice is not known at this point.

³³ *Report*, p. 20.

parties that the Commission lacks preemption authority over state and local rates under 253(c),³⁴ at least in the case of alleged violations of Sections 253(a) and (b), telecom providers may request that the Commission exercise its preemption authority under Section 253(d). to preempt State or local requirements in particular cases.³⁵

Furthermore, the Commission's authority to grant Mobilitie's Petition is constrained in important ways by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and by the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 253.

III. FEDERALLY MANDATED ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED RIGHTS-OF-WAY AT LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE WOULD VIOLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT AND 47 U.S.C. § 253.

In its Petition, Mobilitie requests that the Commission limit the "fair and reasonable compensation"³⁶ that may be imposed by state and local governments for the use of their rights-of-way to the cost of managing that right-of-way. But such a limitation would violate both the requirements of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Section 253 of the Communications Act.

³⁴As pointed out in other comments, Section 253(d) grants the Commission preemption authority over alleged violations of 253(a) and (b). However, it is silent with respect to 253(c). Given the lengthy analyses of this issue offered by other commenting parties, we do not belabor the point here.

³⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 253(d) states:

[&]quot;If, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Commission determines that a State or local government has permitted or imposed any statute, regulation, or legal requirement that violates subsection (a) or (b), the Commission shall preempt the enforcement of such statute, regulation, or legal requirement to the extent necessary to correct such violation or inconsistency."

³⁶ See 47 U.S.C. § 253(c) "Nothing in this section affects the authority of a State or local government to manage the public rights-of-way or to require fair and reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers . . ."

A. The Fifth Amendment Requires the Payment of Fair Market Value.

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the use of Federal eminent domain authority against state-owned property.³⁷ However, any such exercise of eminent domain power against the property of state or local governments is subject to the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment.³⁸ The Takings Clause states: "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The term "just compensation" has been construed by the Supreme Court as meaning fair market value.³⁹ Moreover, the Supreme Court has held that the installation of telegraph and telephone lines, rails, and underground pipes or wires constitute "takings" within the meaning of the Fifth Amendment.⁴⁰ Accordingly, the Commission is constitutionally precluded from mandating that state and local governments provide access to publicly owned rights-of-way at less than fair market value.

Although the precise cost figure resulting from the adoption of Mobilitie's position that state and local governments be limited to the cost of managing the rights-of-way would vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, it appears certain that it would be less than "fair market value." Accordingly, VDOT submits that adoption of Mobilitie's proposed limitation on right-of-way access/usage fees is prohibited by the Fifth Amendment.

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³⁷ See, e.g., State of Oklahoma ex el. Phillips v. Atkinson, 313 U.S. 508, 534 (1941).

³⁸ In *U.S. v. 50 Acres of Land*, 469 U.S. 24, 31 (1984), the U.S. Supreme Court stated that "it is most reasonable to construe the reference to 'private property' in the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment as encompassing property of state and local governments when it is condemned by the United States."

³⁹ See, e.g., U.S. v. Chandler-Dunbar Water Power Co., 229 U.S. 53, 81 (1913).

⁴⁰ Loretto v. Teleprompter Manhattan CATV, 458, U.S. 419 (1982).

B. Section 253 of the Communications Act Does Not Require Cost-Based Fees and is Subject to the Requirements of the Fifth Amendment.

Section 253(c) of the Communications Act permits state and local governments to require "fair and reasonable compensation . . . for use of public rights-of-way." It does not limit such compensation to cost-based rates as urged by Mobilitie. Several U.S. Courts of Appeals have upheld governmentally imposed usage fees linked to revenue generated by particular wireless sites. 41 Moreover, at least one such court has ruled that rates cannot be challenged unless the rates are so burdensome that they amount to an effective prohibition of entry into the telecommunications services market under Section 253(a). 42

Because they are predicated on costs, rather than fair market value, VDOT also opposes the Commission's proposal to use its cost-based pole attachment formula as a basis for setting rates for small cell co-location charges. As the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit noted in its decision in *TCG Detroit v. City of Dearborn*, the "just and reasonable" language utilized in the Pole Attachment Act, is different than the "fair and reasonable compensation" language of Section 253. The court found that the Pole Attachment Act refers to the recovery of additional costs borne by the utility in providing pole attachments while Section 253 refers to compensation (rather than costs) and that only the totality of the circumstances can illuminate whether a fee is "fair and reasonable." Thus, in response to the specific question asked by the Commission in

 $^{^{41}}$ See, e.g., *TCG Detroit v. City of Dearborn*, 206 F.3d 618 (6th Cir. 2000); *TCG New York, Inc. v. City of White Plains*, 305 F.3d 67 (2nd Cir. 2002).

⁴² 47 U.S.C. § 253(a) states as follows; "No State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service." *See Level 3 Communications LLC v. City of St. Louis*, 477 F.3d 528, 532 (2007).

⁴³ Public Notice, p. 14.

⁴⁴ TCG Detroit v. City of Dearborn, supra at note 18, 206 F.3d at 624-25 (citing district court opinion with approval).

⁴⁵ *Id*.

its *Public Notice*, the Commission's pole attachment formula does not provide a "useful" analog for the "reasonable compensation" that state and local governments may assess under Section 253. 46

In any event, the provisions of Section 253 are subject to the requirements of the Fifth Amendment Takings Clause which, as noted above, requires that mandated access to publicly owned rights-of-way for wireless facilities be provided at fair market value.

Accordingly, the cost-based access to public rights-of-way sought by Mobilitie, including that owned by VDOT, would violate Section 253, as well as the Fifth Amendment.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, VDOT requests that the Commission deny Mobilitie's Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Requiring access to public rights-of-way by small cell wireless facilities at cost-based rates would violate the requirements of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 253. In addition, it would unwisely restrict the ability of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and other state and local governments in the United

⁴⁶ Although it is true that SB 1282, as passed by the Virginia General Assembly, would require VDOT to provide access to small cell facilities proposed for co-location in its rights-of-way at less than fair market value, states are free to voluntarily provide access to their own property without reference to the requirements of the Fifth Amendment.

States, to adjust their own statutory and regulatory requirements to accommodate changed circumstances in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AN AGENCY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

By:

Counsel

MARK R. HERRING Attorney General of Virginia

STEPHEN A. COBB Deputy Attorney General

JEFFREY R. ALLEN
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Chief Transportation Section

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 202 North Ninth Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 786-3748 (Telephone) (804) 692-1647 (Facsimile) jrallen@oag.va.state.us CRAIG J. BLAKELEY STEVENSON S. KAMINER Alliance Law Group LLC 7700 Leesburg Pike, Suite 229 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22043-2623 Special Counsel (703) 848-8336 (Telephone) (703) 848-8265 (Facsimile) cblakeley@alliancelawgroup.com

EXHIBIT 1

VIRGINIA UTILITY POLE COLLISIONS INJURIES & FATALITIES

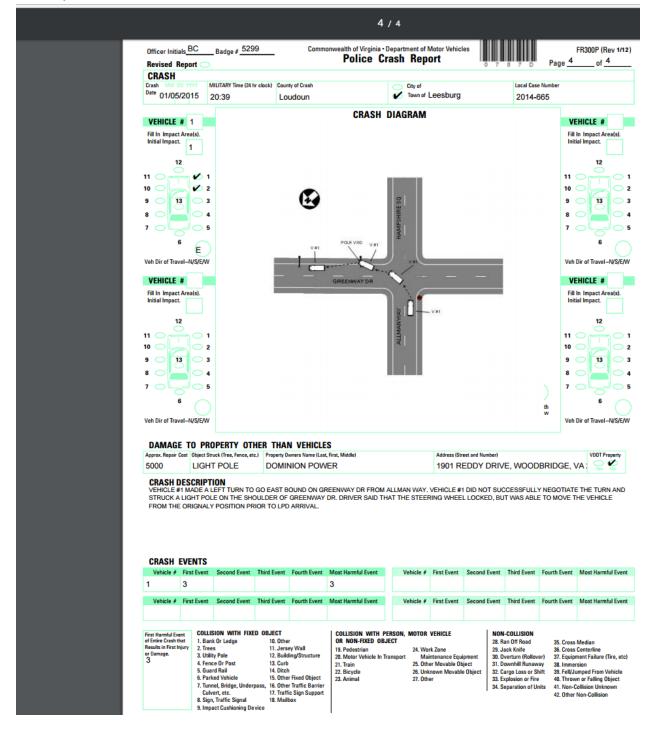
2011 - 2015 crash summary table that involved at least one vehicle hit a utility pole at first or second or third or fourth or the most harmful event

8,391	173	9,403	6,217	165	15,785	TOTAL
1,729	39	2,086	1,237	39	3,362	2015
1,610	31	1,954	1,175	29	3,158	2014
1,582	30	1,864	1,197	28	3,089	2013
1,786	42	1,740	1,335	41	3,116	2012
1,684	31	1,759	1,273	28	3,060	2011
(PERSONS)	(PERSONS)	PDO CRASH	INJURY CRASH	FATAL CRASH	IUIALCKASH	YEAR
INJURIES	FATALITIES	2000		FATAL CDACL	TOTAL CDAC!	24.5%
	,					

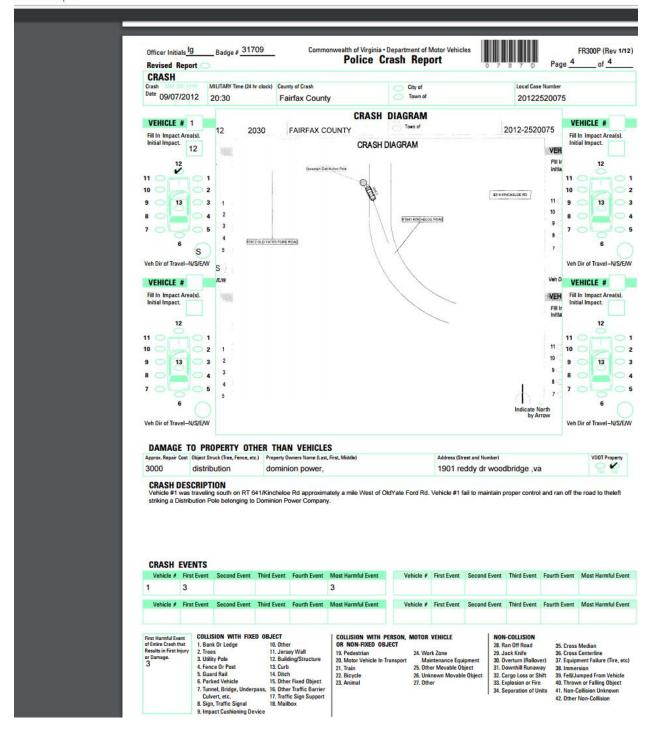
2011 - 2015 crash summary table that involved at least one vehicle hit a utility pole at the most harmful event

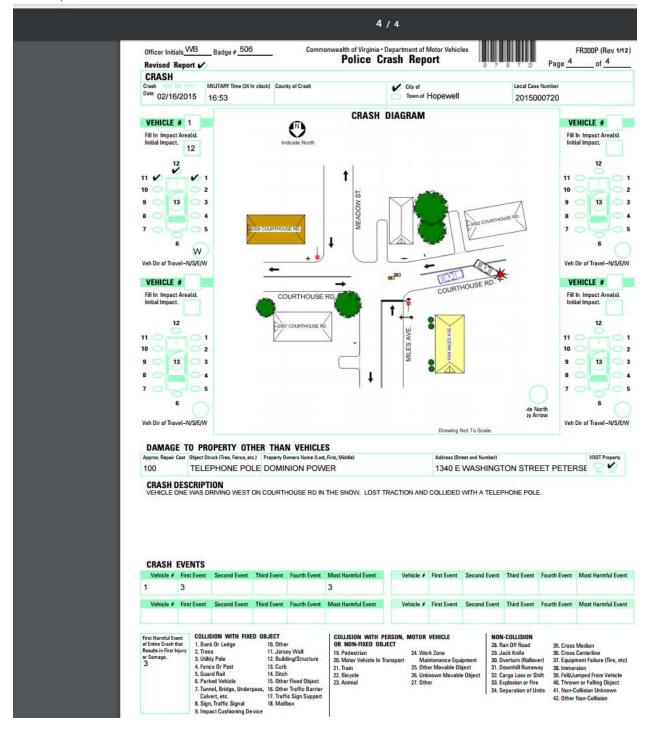
PDO CRASH (PERSONS) (1,392 16 1,408 22 1,473 19 1,513 13 1,592 21	88 4,266		11,732	TOTAL
PDO CRASH (PERSONS) (PERSONS) (PERSONS) (PERSONS) 16 (PERSONS) 17,473 (PERSONS) (PERSONS) 17,473 (PERSONS) (PERSONS) 17,513 (PERSONS) (P	21 839		2,452	2015
PDO CRASH (PERSONS) (PERSO 1,392 16 1,408 22 1,473 19	13 779		2,305	2014
PDO CRASH (PERSONS) (PERSO 1,392 16 1,408 22	17 826		2,316	2013
PDO CRASH (PERSONS) (PERSO	22 917		2,347	2012
PDO CRASH (PERSONS)	15 905		2,312	2011
מסס כפאכר וייייניייניייניייניייינייייייייייייייי	INJUNI CRASH	FALAL CNASH	I O I AL CNASH	TEAN
EATALITIES	INIII IDV CDACL	EATAL CBASE	TOTAL CBASH	Υ Π > D

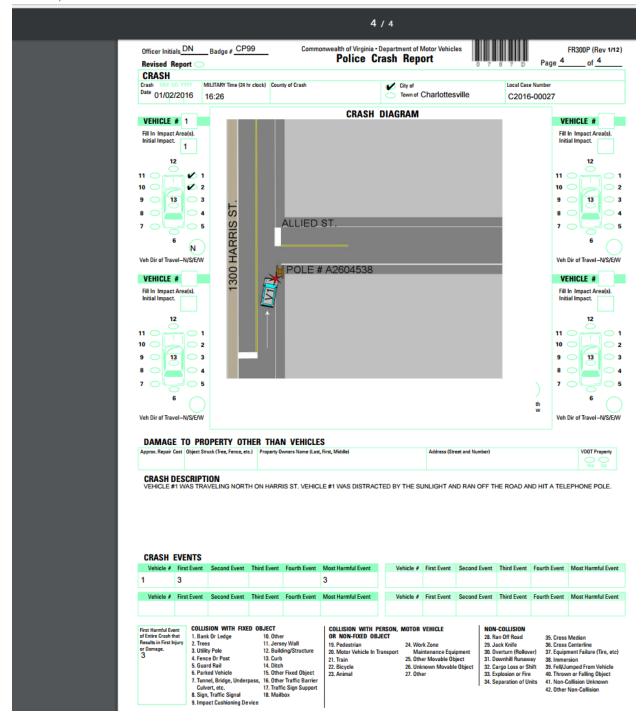
EXHIBIT 2 DIAGRAMS OF SELECTED UTILITY POLE COLLISIONS

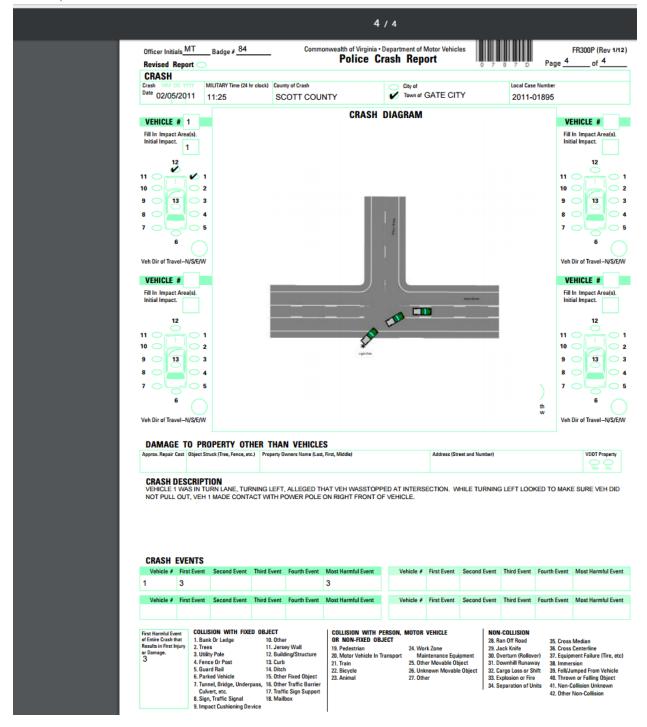


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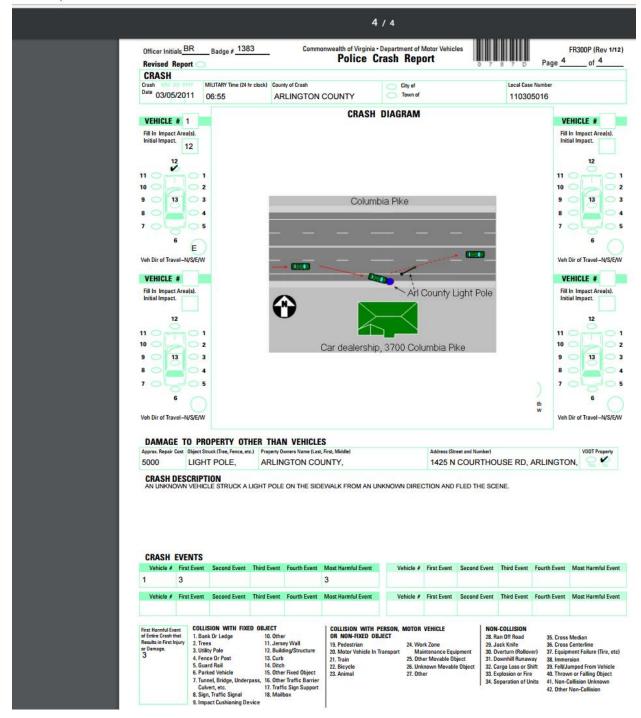






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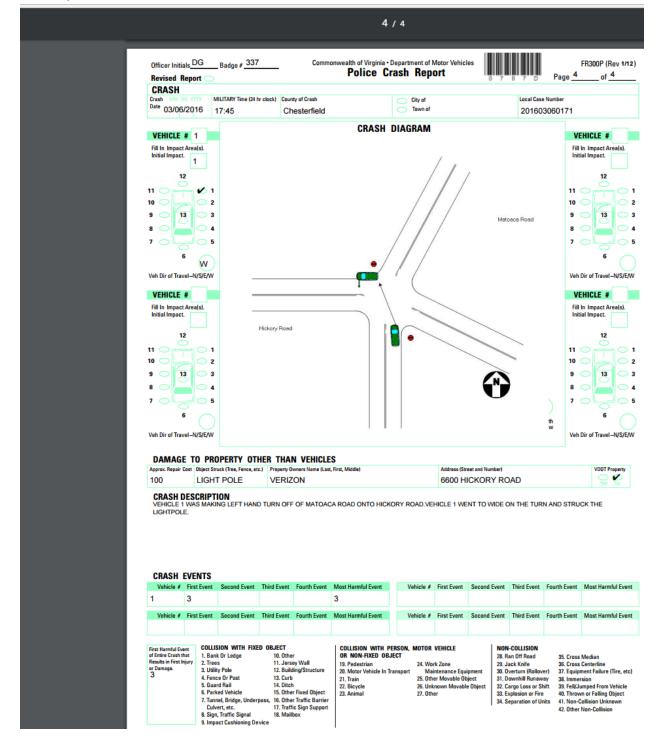


EXHIBIT 3

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION CONCERNING WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE SITING

(SB 1282)

17105460D

2

SENATE BILL NO. 1282

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Delegate Kilgore on February 14, 2017)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator McDougle)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 an article numbered 7.2, consisting of sections numbered 15.2-2316.3, 15.2-2316.4, and 15.2-2316.5, and by adding in Title 56 a chapter numbered 15.1, consisting of sections numbered 56-484.26 through 56-484.31, relating to wireless communications infrastructure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 an article numbered 7.2, consisting of sections numbered 15.2-2316.3, 15.2-2316.4, and 15.2-2316.5, and by adding in Title 56 a chapter numbered 15.1, consisting of sections numbered 56-484.26 through 56-484.31, as follows:

Article 7.2.

Zoning for Wireless Communications Infrastructure.

§ 15.2-2316.3. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Antenna" means communications equipment that transmits or receives electromagnetic radio signals used in the provision of any type of wireless communications services.

"Base station" means a station that includes a structure that currently supports or houses an antenna, transceiver, coaxial cables, power cables, or other associated equipment at a specific site that is authorized to communicate with mobile stations, generally consisting of radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial cables, power supplies, and other associated electronics.

"Co-locate" means to install, mount, maintain, modify, operate, or replace a wireless facility on, under, within, or adjacent to a base station, building, existing structure, utility pole, or wireless support structure. "Co-location" has a corresponding meaning.

"Department" means the Department of Transportation.

"Existing structure" means any structure that is installed or approved for installation at the time a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider provides notice to a locality or the Department of an agreement with the owner of the structure to co-locate equipment on that structure. "Existing structure" includes any structure that is currently supporting, designed to support, or capable of supporting the attachment of wireless facilities, including towers, buildings, utility poles, light poles, flag poles, signs, and water towers.

"Micro-wireless facility" means a small cell facility that is not larger in dimension than 24 inches in length, 15 inches in width, and 12 inches in height and that has an exterior antenna, if any, not longer than 11 inches.

"Small cell facility" means a wireless facility that meets both of the following qualifications: (i) each antenna is located inside an enclosure of no more than six cubic feet in volume, or, in the case of an antenna that has exposed elements, the antenna and all of its exposed elements could fit within an imaginary enclosure of no more than six cubic feet and (ii) all other wireless equipment associated with the facility has a cumulative volume of no more than 28 cubic feet, or such higher limit as is established by the Federal Communications Commission. The following types of associated equipment are not included in the calculation of equipment volume: electric meter, concealment, telecommunications demarcation boxes, back-up power systems, grounding equipment, power transfer switches, cut-off switches, and vertical cable runs for the connection of power and other services.

"Utility pole" means a structure owned, operated, or owned and operated by a public utility, local government, or the Commonwealth that is designed specifically for and used to carry lines, cables, or wires for communications, cable television, or electricity.

"Water tower" means a water storage tank, or a standpipe or an elevated tank situated on a support structure, originally constructed for use as a reservoir or facility to store or deliver water.

"Wireless facility" means equipment at a fixed location that enables wireless communications between user equipment and a communications network, including (i) equipment associated with wireless services, such as private, broadcast, and public safety services, as well as unlicensed wireless services and fixed wireless services, such as microwave backhaul, and (ii) radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial, or fiber-optic cable, regular and backup power supplies, and comparable equipment, regardless of technological configuration.

"Wireless infrastructure provider" means any person that builds or installs transmission equipment, wireless facilities, or wireless support structures, but that is not a wireless services provider.

SB1282H2 2 of 6

"Wireless services" means (i) "personal wireless services" as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C)(i); (ii) "personal wireless service facilities" as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C)(ii), including commercial mobile services as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(d), provided to personal mobile communication devices through wireless facilities; and (iii) any other fixed or mobile wireless service, using licensed or unlicensed spectrum, provided using wireless facilities.

"Wireless services provider" means a provider of wireless services.

"Wireless support structure" means a freestanding structure, such as a monopole, tower, either guyed or self-supporting, or suitable existing structure or alternative structure designed to support or capable of supporting wireless facilities. "Wireless support structure" does not include any telephone or electrical utility pole or any tower used for the distribution or transmission of electrical service.

§ 15.2-2316.4. Zoning; small cell facilities.

- A. A locality shall not require that a special exception, special use permit, or variance be obtained for any small cell facility installed by a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider on an existing structure, provided that the wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider (i) has permission from the owner of the structure to co-locate equipment on that structure and (ii) notifies the locality in which the permitting process occurs.
- B. Localities may require administrative review for the issuance of any required zoning permits for the installation of a small cell facility by a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider on an existing structure. Localities shall permit an applicant to submit up to 35 permit requests on a single application. In addition:
- 1. A locality shall approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of receipt of the complete application. Within 10 days after receipt of an application and a valid electronic mail address for the applicant, the locality shall notify the applicant by electronic mail whether the application is incomplete and specify any missing information; otherwise, the application shall be deemed complete. Any disapproval of the application shall be in writing and accompanied by an explanation for the disapproval. The 60-day period may be extended by the locality in writing for a period not to exceed an additional 30 days. The application shall be deemed approved if the locality fails to act within the initial 60 days or an extended 30-day period.
- 2. A locality may prescribe and charge a reasonable fee for processing the application not to exceed:
 - a. \$100 each for up to five small cell facilities on a permit application; and
 - b. \$50 for each additional small cell facility on a permit application.
 - 3. Approval for a permit shall not be unreasonably conditioned, withheld, or delayed.
- 4. The locality may disapprove a proposed location or installation of a small cell facility only for the following reasons:
- a. Material potential interference with other pre-existing communications facilities or with future communications facilities that have already been designed and planned for a specific location or that have been reserved for future public safety communications facilities;
 - b. The public safety or other critical public service needs;
- c. Only in the case of an installation on or in publicly owned or publicly controlled property, excluding privately owned structures where the applicant has an agreement for attachment to the structure, aesthetic impact or the absence of all required approvals from all departments, authorities, and agencies with jurisdiction over such property; and
- d. Conflict with an applicable local ordinance adopted pursuant to § 15.2-2306 or pursuant to local charter on a historic property that is not eligible for the review process established under 54 U.S.C. § 306108.
- 5. Nothing shall prohibit an applicant from voluntarily submitting, and the locality from accepting, any conditions that otherwise address potential visual or aesthetic effects resulting from the placement of small cell facilities.
- 6. Nothing in this section shall preclude a locality from adopting reasonable rules with respect to the removal of abandoned wireless support structures or wireless facilities.
- C. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the installation, placement, maintenance, or replacement of micro-wireless facilities that are suspended on cables or lines that are strung between existing utility poles in compliance with national safety codes shall be exempt from locality-imposed permitting requirements and fees.

§ 15.2-2316.5. Moratorium prohibited.

A locality shall not adopt a moratorium on considering zoning applications submitted by wireless services providers or wireless infrastructure providers.

CHAPTER 15.1.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

§ 56-484.26. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Antenna" means communications equipment that transmits or receives electromagnetic radio signals used in the provision of any type of wireless communications services.

"Co-locate" means to install, mount, maintain, modify, operate, or replace a wireless facility on, under, within, or adjacent to a base station, building, existing structure, utility pole, or wireless support structure. "Co-location" has a corresponding meaning.

"Department" means the Department of Transportation.

 "Districtwide permit" means a permit granted by the Department to a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider that allows the permittee to use the rights-of-way under the Department's jurisdiction to install or maintain small cell facilities on existing structures in one of the Commonwealth's nine construction districts. A districtwide permit allows the permittee to perform multiple occurrences of activities necessary to install or maintain small cell facilities on non-limited access right-of-way without obtaining a single use permit for each occurrence. The central office permit manager shall be responsible for the issuance of all districtwide permits. The Department may authorize districtwide permits covering multiple districts.

"Existing structure" means any structure that is installed or approved for installation at the time a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider provides notice to a locality or the Department of an agreement with the owner of the structure to co-locate equipment on that structure. "Existing structure" includes any structure that is currently supporting, designed to support, or capable of supporting the attachment of wireless facilities, including towers, buildings, utility poles, light poles, flag poles, signs, and water towers.

"Micro-wireless facility" means a small cell facility that is not larger in dimension than 24 inches in length, 15 inches in width, and 12 inches in height and that has an exterior antenna, if any, not longer than 11 inches.

"Small cell facility" means a wireless facility that meets both of the following qualifications: (i) each antenna is located inside an enclosure of no more than six cubic feet in volume, or, in the case of an antenna that has exposed elements, the antenna and all of its exposed elements could fit within an imaginary enclosure of no more than six cubic feet and (ii) all other wireless equipment associated with the facility has a cumulative volume of no more than 28 cubic feet, or such higher limit as is established by the Federal Communications Commission. The following types of associated equipment are not included in the calculation of equipment volume: electric meter, concealment, telecommunications demarcation boxes, ground-based enclosures, back-up power systems, grounding equipment, power transfer switches, cut-off switches, and vertical cable runs for the connection of power and other services.

"Utility pole" means a structure owned, operated, or owned and operated by a public utility, local government, or the Commonwealth that is designed specifically for and used to carry lines, cables, or wires for communications, cable television, or electricity.

"Water tower" means a water storage tank, or a standpipe or an elevated tank situated on a support structure, originally constructed for use as a reservoir or facility to store or deliver water.

"Wireless facility" means equipment at a fixed location that enables wireless services between user equipment and a communications network, including (i) equipment associated with wireless services, such as private, broadcast, and public safety services, as well as unlicensed wireless services and fixed wireless services, such as microwave backhaul, and (ii) radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial, or fiber-optic cable, regular and backup power supplies, and comparable equipment, regardless of technological configuration.

"Wireless infrastructure provider" means any person, including a person authorized to provide telecommunications service in the state, that builds or installs transmission equipment, wireless facilities, or wireless support structures, but that is not a wireless services provider.

"Wireless services" means (i) "personal wireless services" as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C)(i); (ii) "personal wireless service facilities" as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C)(ii), including commercial mobile services as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 332(d), provided to personal mobile communication devices through wireless facilities; and (iii) any other fixed or mobile wireless service, using licensed or unlicensed spectrum, provided using wireless facilities.

"Wireless services provider" means a provider of wireless services.

"Wireless support structure" means a freestanding structure, such as a monopole, tower, either guyed or self-supporting, or suitable existing structure or alternative structure designed to support or capable of supporting wireless facilities. "Wireless support structure" does not include any telephone or electrical utility pole or any tower used for the distribution or transmission of electrical service.

§ 56-484.27. Access to the public rights-of-way by wireless services providers and wireless infrastructure providers; generally.

A. No locality or the Department shall impose on wireless services providers or wireless infrastructure providers any restrictions or requirements concerning the use of the public rights-of-way,

SB1282H2 4 of 6

including the permitting process, the zoning process, notice, time and location of excavations and repair work, enforcement of the statewide building code, and inspections, that are unfair, unreasonable, or discriminatory.

B. No locality or the Department shall require a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider to provide in-kind services or physical assets as a condition of consent to use public rights-of-way or easements. This shall not limit the ability of localities, their authorities or commissions that provide utility services, or the Department to enter into voluntary pole attachment, tower occupancy, conduit occupancy, or conduit construction agreements with wireless services providers or wireless infrastructure providers.

C. No locality or the Department shall adopt a moratorium on considering requests for access to the public rights-of-way from wireless services providers or wireless infrastructure providers.

§ 56-484.28. Access to public rights-of-way operated and maintained by the Department for the installation and maintenance of small cell facilities on existing structures.

A. Upon application by a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider, the Department shall issue a districtwide permit, consistent with applicable regulations that do not conflict with this chapter, granting access to public rights-of-way that it operates and maintains to install and maintain small cell facilities on existing structures in the rights-of-way. The application shall include a copy of the agreement under which the applicant has permission from the owner of the structure to the co-location of equipment on that structure. If the application is received on or after September 1, 2017, (i) the Department shall issue the districtwide permit within 30 days after receipt of the application and (ii) the districtwide permit shall be deemed granted if not issued within 30 days after receipt of the complete application. Within 10 days after receipt of an application and a valid electronic mail address for the applicant, the Department shall notify the applicant by electronic mail whether the application is incomplete and specify any missing information; otherwise, the application shall be deemed complete. A districtwide permit issued for the original installation shall allow the permittee to repair, replace, or perform routine maintenance operations to small cell facilities once installed.

B. The Department may require a separate single use permit to allow a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider to install and maintain small cell facilities on an existing structure when such activity requires (i) working within the highway travel lane or requiring closure of a highway travel lane; (ii) disturbing the pavement, shoulder, roadway, or ditch line; (iii) placement on limited access rights-of-way; or (iv) any specific precautions to ensure the safety of the traveling public or the protection of public infrastructure or the operation thereof. Upon application by a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider, the Department may issue a single use permit granting access to install and maintain small cell facilities in such circumstances. If the application is received on or after September 1, 2017, (a) the Department shall approve or disapprove the application within 60 days after receipt of the application, which 60-day period may be extended by the Department in writing for a period not to exceed an additional 30 days and (b) the application shall be deemed approved if the Department fails to approve or disapprove the application within the initial 60 days and any extension thereof. Any disapproval of an application for a single use permit shall be in writing and accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for the disapproval.

C. The Department shall not impose any fee for the use of the right-of-way on a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider to attach or co-locate small cell facilities on an existing structure in the right-of-way. However, the Department may prescribe and charge a reasonable fee not to exceed \$250 for processing an application for a districtwide or single use permit.

D. The Department shall not impose any fee or require a permit for the installation, placement, maintenance, or replacement of micro-wireless facilities that are suspended on cables or lines that are strung between existing utility poles in compliance with national safety codes. However, the Department may require a single use permit if such activities (i) involve working within the highway travel lane or require closure of a highway travel lane; (ii) disturb the pavement, shoulder, roadway, or ditch line; (iii) include placement on limited access rights-of-way; or (iv) require any specific precautions to ensure the safety of the traveling public or the protection of public infrastructure or the operation thereof, and either were not authorized in or will be conducted in a time, place, or manner that is inconsistent with terms of the existing permit for that facility or the structure upon which it is attached.

§ 56-484.29. Access to locality rights-of-way for installation and maintenance of small cell facilities on existing structures.

A. Upon application by a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider, a locality may issue a permit granting access to the public rights-of-way it operates and maintains to install and maintain small cell facilities on existing structures. Such a permit shall grant access to all rights-of-way in the locality for the purpose of installing small cell facilities on existing structures, provided that the wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider (i) has permission from the owner of the structure to co-locate equipment on that structure and (ii) provides notice of the agreement and co-location to the locality. The locality shall approve or disapprove any such requested permit within 60

days of receipt of the complete application. Within 10 days after receipt of an application and a valid electronic mail address for the applicant, the locality shall notify the applicant by electronic mail whether the application is incomplete and specify any missing information; otherwise, the application shall be deemed complete. Any disapproval shall be in writing and accompanied by an explanation for the disapproval. The 60-day period may be extended by the locality in writing for a period not to exceed an additional 30 days. The permit request shall be deemed approved if the locality fails to act within the initial 60 days or an extended 30-day period. No such permit shall be required for providers of telecommunications services and nonpublic providers of cable television, electric, natural gas, water, and sanitary sewer services that, as of July 1, 2017, already have facilities lawfully occupying the public rights-of-way under the locality's jurisdiction.

B. Localities shall not impose any fee for the use of the rights-of-way, except for zoning, subdivision, site plan, and comprehensive plan fees of general application, on a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider to attach or co-locate small cell facilities on an existing structure in the right-of-way. However, a locality may prescribe and charge a reasonable fee not to exceed \$250 for

processing a permit application under subsection A.

C. Localities shall not impose any fee or require any application or permit for the installation, placement, maintenance, or replacement of micro-wireless facilities that are suspended on cables or lines that are strung between existing utility poles in compliance with national safety codes. However, the locality may require a single use permit if such activities (i) involve working within the highway travel lane or require closure of a highway travel lane; (ii) disturb the pavement, shoulder, roadway, or ditch line; (iii) include placement on limited access rights-of-way; or (iv) require any specific precautions to ensure the safety of the traveling public or the protection of public infrastructure or the operation thereof, and either were not authorized in or will be conducted in a time, place, or manner that is inconsistent with terms of the existing permit for that facility or the structure upon which it is attached.

§ 56-484.30. Agreements for use of public right-of-way to construct new wireless support structures; relocation of wireless support structures.

Subject to any applicable requirements of Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution of Virginia, public right-of-way permits or agreements for the construction of wireless support structures issued on or after July 1, 2017, shall be for an initial term of at least 10 years, with at least three options for renewal for terms of five years, subject to terms providing for earlier termination for cause or by mutual agreement. Nothing herein is intended to prohibit the Department or localities from requiring permittees to relocate wireless support structures when relocation is necessary due to a transportation project or material change to the right-of-way, so long as other users of the right-of-way are required to relocate. Such relocation shall be completed as soon as reasonably possible within the time set forth in any written request by the Department or a locality for such relocation, as long as the Department or a locality provides the permittee with a minimum of 180 days' advance written notice to comply with such relocation, unless circumstances beyond the control of the Department or the locality require a shorter period of advance notice. The permittee shall bear only the proportional cost of the relocation that is caused by the transportation project and shall not bear any cost related to private benefit or where the permittee was on private right-of-way. If the locality or the Department bears any of the cost of the relocation, the permittee shall not be obligated to commence the relocation until it receives the funds for such relocation. The permittee shall have no liability for any delays caused by a failure to receive funds for the cost of such relocation, and the Department or a locality shall have no obligation to collect such funds. If relocation is deemed necessary, the Department or locality shall work cooperatively with the permittee to minimize any negative impact to the wireless signal caused by the relocation. There may be emergencies when relocation is required to commence in an expedited manner, and in such situations the permittee and the locality or Department shall work diligently to accomplish such emergency relocation.

§ 56-484.31. Attachment of small cell facilities on government-owned structures.

- A. If the Commonwealth or a locality agrees to permit a wireless services provider or a wireless infrastructure provider to attach small cell facilities to government-owned structures, both the government entity and the wireless services or wireless infrastructure provider shall negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually agreeable contract terms and conditions.
- B. The rates, terms, and conditions for such agreement shall be just and reasonable, cost-based, nondiscriminatory, and competitively neutral, and shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws. However, rates for attachments to government-owned buildings may be based on fair market value.
- C. For utility poles owned by a locality or the Commonwealth that support aerial cables used for video, communications, or electric service, the parties shall comply with the process for make-ready work under 47 U.S.C. § 224 and implementing regulations. The good faith estimate of the government

SB1282H2 6 of 6

entity owning or controlling the utility pole for any make-ready work necessary to enable the utility pole to support the requested co-location shall include pole replacement if necessary.

D. For utility poles owned by a locality or the Commonwealth that do not support aerial cables used for video, communications, or electric service, the government entity owning or controlling the utility pole shall provide a good faith estimate for any make-ready work necessary to enable the utility pole to support the requested co-location, including pole replacement, if necessary, within 60 days after receipt of a complete application. Make-ready work, including any pole replacement, shall be completed within 60 days of written acceptance of the good faith estimate by the wireless services provider or a wireless infrastructure provider.

E. The government entity owning or controlling the utility pole shall not require more make-ready work than required to meet applicable codes or industry standards. Charges for make-ready work, including any pole replacement, shall not exceed actual costs or the amount charged to other wireless services providers, providers of telecommunications services, and nonpublic providers of cable television and electric services for similar work and shall not include consultants' fees or expenses.

F. The annual recurring rate to co-locate a small cell facility on a government-owned utility pole shall not exceed the actual, direct, and reasonable costs related to the wireless services provider's or wireless infrastructure provider's use of space on the utility pole. In any controversy concerning the appropriateness of the rate, the government entity owning or controlling the utility pole shall have the burden of proving that the rates are reasonably related to the actual, direct, and reasonable costs incurred for use of space on the utility pole for such period.

G. This section shall not apply to utility poles, structures, or property of an electric utility owned or operated by a municipality or other political subdivision.